

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /186 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8788

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJ: KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA: KOREAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 184584

1. AMONG OTHER MATTERS, ON SEPT 5, A/DCM DISCUSSED WITH AMB OMRAN EL SHAFEI, DIR INT'L ORG AFFAIRS, MFA, NORTH KOREAN ITEM DEMANDING TERMINATION OF UN COMMAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA. AFTER A/DCM MADE GENERAL PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON ISSUE, EL SHAFEI SAID THAT AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS "WITH EVERY

ONE" GOE HAD CO-SPONSORED NORTH KOREAN ITEM.

EL SHAFEI INDICATED HE HAD TALKED (THIS WAS TAKEN TO MEAN EL SHAFEI HIMSELF) WITH REPS IN CAIRO OF BOTH NORTH KOREA AND ROK. GOE, HE DECLARED, WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO BE SPARED HAVING TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH THIS MATTER IF ONLY THE TWO

SIDES, THEMSELVES, COULD COME TO

AN AGREEMENT. BOTH REPS IN CAIRO--THE NORTH KOREAN AMB AND PARTICULARLY THE ROK CONGEN ARE HELD IN HIGH REGARD. THE ROK HAS HAD TWO FINE REPS IN CAIRO OVER
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THE PAST FEW YEARS, HE ADDED. THE REAL PROBLEM,

ACCORDING TO EL SHAFEI, WAS THAT BOTH SIDES KEEP MAKING DEMANDS UPON EACH OTHER, AND THESE DEMANDS BLOCKED THE ROAD TO PROGRESS. THE GOE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE COUNTRIES TO WORK WITH BOTH KOREAS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM.

2. EL SHAFEI SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN INCONTACT WITH THE US WITH A VIEW TO COMING TO SOME SORT OF AN ARRANGEMENT; HOWEVER, NORTH KOREANS HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY FROM US TO DATE, EL SHAFEI REFERRED TO HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ROK CONGEN IN CAIRO SAYING HE HAD RECEIVED DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SOUTH KOREANS WERE WILLING TO LOOK INTO "ALTERNATIVE MEASURES" TO ACHIEVE ACCOMMODATIONS. THIS STEP IS CONDUCIVE TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM, HE AVERRED, (EL SHAFEI WAS NEVER QUITE CLEAR AS TO WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT IN MAKING THESE POINTS AND IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DRAW HIM OUT SO AS TO OBTAIN A FULLER EXPLANATION. PRESENCE OF OTHER MFA OFFICER IN ROOM MAY HAVE BEEN AN INHIBITING FACTOR.)

3. EL SHAFEI STRESSED IT WAS EGYPTIAN VIEW THAT KOREAN ISSUE WAS SOMETHING FOR SECURITY COUNCIL, NOT UNGA. HOWEVER, IT HAD BOWED TO NORTH KOREAN WISHES IN MATTER, SINCE LATTER FELT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL. EL SHAFEI EMPHASIZED GOE BELIEVES THAT UN FRAMEWORK IS THE FORUM TO AIR ISSUE SUCH AS KOREAN QUESTION. THERE IT CAN BE DEBATED AND TENSIONS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE ERUPT, CAN BE DISSIPATED. "DEBATE COOLS TENSION" HE SAID. EL SHAFEI THEN DECLARED, AND HE REPEATED THIS TWICE, "INSERTION OF AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA DOES NOT MEAN IT WILL ACHIEVE A RESULT, EITHER FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE." HE ADDED " SINCE WE FAVOR TALKING ABOUT ISSUES, GOE COULD NOT HELP BUT SUPPORT INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN ITEM.

4. EL SHAFEI SAID HE HOPED OPPOSITION TO ITEM ON PART OF US WOULD BE FOR THE RECORD. A/DCM RESPONDED ON THE CONTRARY HE COULD BE ASSURED US WOULD OPPOSE ITEM STRONGLY. EL SHAFEI THEN REMARKED GOE WAS UNFORTUNATELY CONFIDENTIAL

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PLACED IN THE POSITION WHERE IT HAD TO BE CONSISTENT. IT HAS SUPPORTED NORTH KOREAN ITEM IN PAST AND WAS NOW LOCKED INTO THIS POSITION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, "REMEMBER INSERTION OF AN ITEM DOES NOT MEAN WE TAKE A POSITION IN WHICH WE IN ANY WAY WANT TO HAMPER THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. IF SOUTH KOREA FINDS ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS WE WILL GIVE THEM EVERY CONSIDERATION."

5. EL SHAFEI INDICATED HE MIGHT WISH TO TALK WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS FURTHER ON THIS MATTER IN COMING WEEKS.

6. COMMENT: WHAT EL SHAFEI DID NOT SAY IN HIS DISUCSSION OF THE NORTH KOREAN ITEM WAS THAT NORTH KOREANS DURING PAST YEARS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO EGYPT, SUPPORTING THEM IN TANGIBLE FASHION IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL BY PROVIDING PILOT TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT. THEN, TOO, THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN EGYPT IS BADLY IN NEED OF SPARE PARTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS A CONSEQUENCE OF USSR FAILURE TO SUPPLY THEM, NORTH KOREANS ARE IN POSITION TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO GOE.
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